

Colorado Physician Shortage Facts

THE PROBLEM

Physician supply lags patient demand nationally and across Colorado. As supply falls, patients wait longer to see a doctor, and doctors burn out.

BY 2030

The U.S. is projected to have **120,000 too few doctors nationally.**¹⁻³



- ▶ **Nearly 40% of American physicians** will reach retirement age.
- ▶ The United States will face a **shortage of over 120,000 physicians.**
- ▶ **31.2% of Colorado physicians** are within retirement range right now.

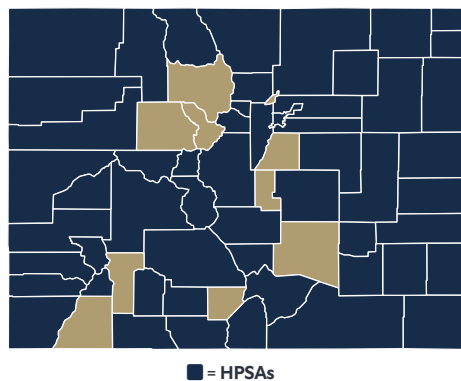
Colorado is projected to be **short 2,424 doctors.**⁴⁻⁵



- ▶ Primary care alone is projected to be **short 1,773 providers.**
- ▶ Rural regions east of Denver have ratios as high as **5,636 residents** for each primary care provider.

54 of Colorado's 64 counties are health professional shortage areas (HPSA).⁶⁻⁷

- ▶ **Low-income citizens** are disproportionately affected by these shortages.
- ▶ HPSA designations indicate areas where there are **3,500 or more patients for every one provider.**



Ranked against other states, Colorado's doctor-to-patient ratio is:

25% worse
for **infectious diseases**

20% worse
in **internal medicine**

15% worse
in **neurology**

11% worse
in **psychiatry**

SOURCES:

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3. AAMC. "Colorado Physician Workforce Profile." Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021. <https://www.aamc.org/media/58141/download>.
4. The Robert Graham Center. "Colorado: Projecting Primary Care Physician Workforce." Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care. Accessed January 25, 2024. <https://www.graham-center.org/content/dam/rgc/documents/maps-data-tools/state-collections/workforce-projections/Colorado.pdf>.
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6. "Map of Health Professional Shortage Areas: Primary Care, by County, 2023 - Rural Health Information Hub," n.d. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/5?state=CO>.
7. KFF. "Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) | KFF." November 1, 2023. <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/primary-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Practitioners%20Needed%20to%20Remove%20HPSA%20Designation%22,%22sort%22:%22desc%22%7D>.